

March 1, 1988

LB 1010

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, why don't we.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend the bill. The amendment is on page 893 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Very briefly, this bill was brought to us by the Department of Social Services. It deals with the loophole that they discovered. We did...we do provide for \$3,000 to not count against their resources when determining eligibility for social services if it is in a burial trust fund. They've come up with a new product called burial insurance now, and as a result, we've seen a rise of issuance and sales of these burial insurance policies. We need to cover those as well, allow for \$3,000 coverage but not additional coverage and protect the public from the sale of additional monies when they are not needed and also to protect the state from the problem of providing too much resources to these individuals. We've worked with the funeral home directors. The amendment I have makes this change prospective, not retrospective. Some of these policies have already been issued and we don't want to throw them into a problem area, so this amendment would deal with the fact that this new change would occur prospectively and should deal with the problem the funeral directors have and there should be no problem with the bill as a result. So I would move the amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Higgins, on the amendment, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to ask Senator Wesely if he would yield to a question or two if necessary.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator, back in 1981 or '82, I sponsored a bill that exempted \$3,000 as long as it was in an irrevocable trust for burial purposes.

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Does this bill in any way change that?